

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION,  
PROTECTION AND APPROPRIATE DESIGNATION  
OF THE ENDICOTT ROCK

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REPORT

*Laconia, N.H. Commission...*  
OF THE

COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION,  
AND APPROPRIATE DESIGNATION

OF THE

ENDICOTT ROCK

AT THE WEIRS, IN THE TOWN OF LACONIA,

APPOINTED BY THE

GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL,

IN ACCORDANCE WITH JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF THE LEGIS-  
LATURE, APPROVED SEPTEMBER 7, 1883, AND  
AUGUST 25, 1885.

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CONCORD:

IRA C. EVANS, PUBLIC PRINTER.

1893.





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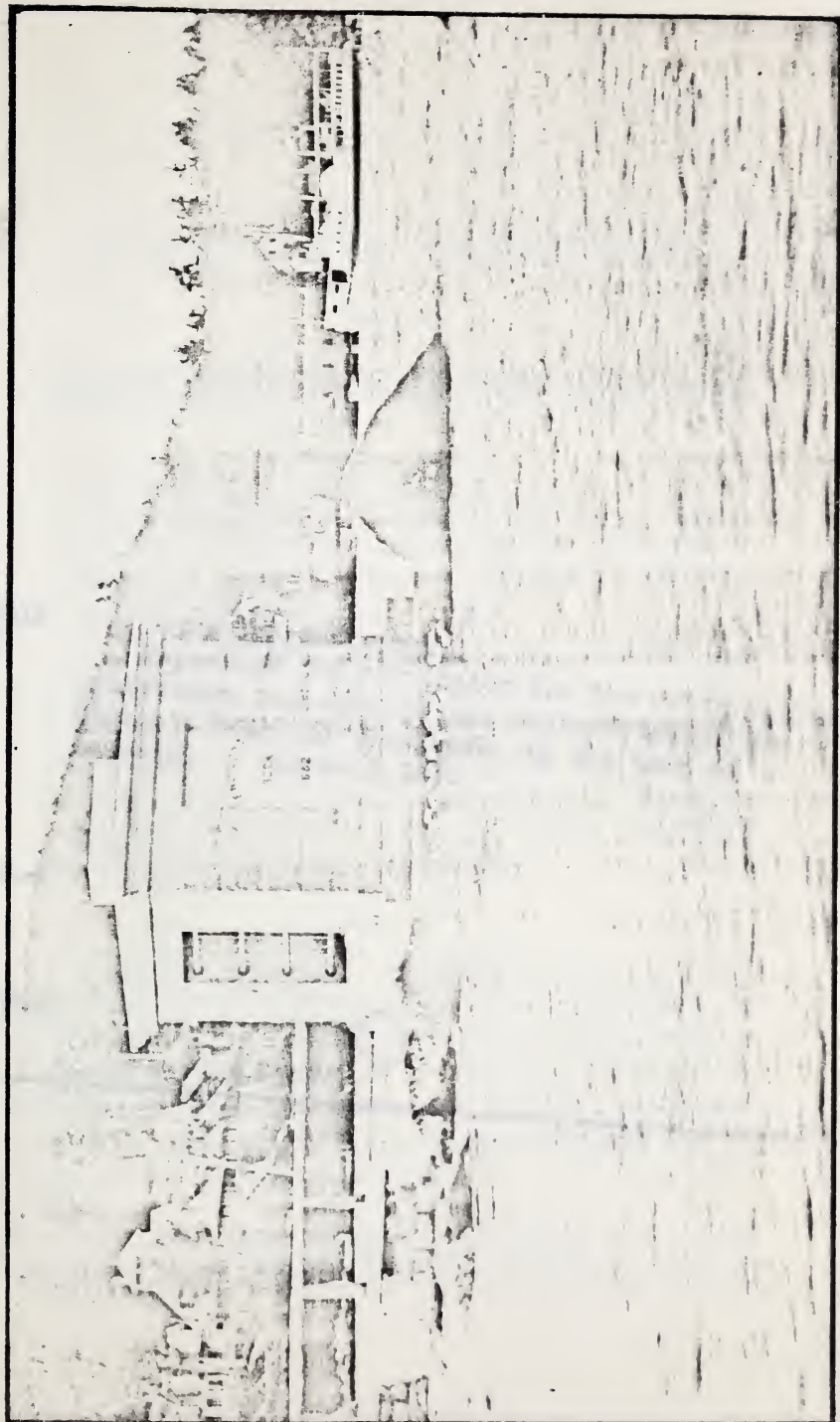
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the Endicott Rock.

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Report of the commission for the preservation,  
protection, and appropriate designation of the  
Endicott Rock, at the Weirs, in the town of  
Laconia.. Concord, 1893.

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## REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

FOR THE

### PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE ENDICOTT ROCK.

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*To His Excellency the Governor, Hiram A. Tuttle,  
and to the Honorable Council: James Farrington,  
Henry B. Quinby, George A. Ramsdell, John M.  
Whipple, Edwin C. Lewis:*

The commissioners appointed by the governor and council of New Hampshire, in pursuance of joint resolutions of the Legislature approved September 7, 1883, and August 25, 1885, to erect a suitable structure "for the preservation and protection of the Endicott Rock, at the Weirs in the town of Laconia," having completed the work assigned them, respectfully

#### REPORT:

That soon after their appointment, they caused the Endicott Rock to be elevated several feet above its former position in the bed of the outlet of Lake Winnepesaukee, a firm support of stone to be built beneath it, and all danger of fracture, on account of a seam formed therein, to be averted by an iron band passed around and an iron bolt passed through it from one side to the other.

The high water afterwards prevailing for several years, prevented further progress of the work until the





summer of 1891, when it was resumed, and the structure now covering the rock was completed the following spring.

Upon its completion, the only remaining duty of the commissioners was its transfer to the possession of the State. This was effected at the Weirs, on the first day of August, 1892, two hundred and forty years after this rock had been selected and marked as an important monument by the colony of Massachusetts Bay, by its delivery to his excellency the governor, in presence of the honorable council and of a large concourse of people.

The exercises of the occasion were as follows :

Joseph B. Walker, previously appointed by the commissioners as president of the occasion, upon taking the chair, briefly remarked :

‘I invite you to forget, for a time, the present, and to go back in remembrance to the time when all of civilized New Hampshire was embraced within the limits of the four towns of Portsmouth, Dover, Hampton, and Exeter; to the days of the English commonwealth, when Oliver Cromwell ruled our mother country; when New Hampshire was living in happy union with its sister colony of Massachusetts Bay and John Endicott was governor of both. At that time, the Bay colony appointed commissioners to ascertain the head of Merrimack river. They found it, they say, in their report to the general court, at “Aquedacan,” the name of the head of the Merrimack, where it issues out of the lake “Winnepusseakit,” and upon yonder boulder in the midst of the stream, they engraved the name of the governor and their own initials.

For nearly two centuries, this stone submerged in the stream, like the body of Alaric of old in the Busento, rested unknown and forgotten. When, some sixty years ago, it was accidentally discovered, it excited great interest, not only on account of the event which it commemorates, and its location at the point where our beautiful lake narrows to a beautiful river, but as an enduring memorial of the former union of our people with those of Massachusetts. It is, I believe, the oldest monument of general interest now existing in the State.

In 1883, our Legislature made provision for its elevation above the level of high water, and for its preservation—a duty which it owed to itself, and an act of courtesy to the grand old commonwealth with

The first of these is the fact that the United States is a young nation, and that its history is a history of growth and expansion.

The second is the fact that the United States is a nation of immigrants, and that its history is a history of the struggle for a better life for all its people.

The third is the fact that the United States is a nation of free men, and that its history is a history of the struggle for freedom and justice for all its people.

The fourth is the fact that the United States is a nation of peace-loving people, and that its history is a history of the struggle for peace and harmony among all nations.

The fifth is the fact that the United States is a nation of progress, and that its history is a history of the struggle for progress and improvement for all its people.

The sixth is the fact that the United States is a nation of hope, and that its history is a history of the struggle for hope and optimism for all its people.

which New Hampshire was happily united for nearly half a century. The commission appointed for the execution of that purpose, having discharged the duty assigned it, is here to transfer to the State of New Hampshire the structure which they have caused to be erected. Deeming it fit that, on such an occasion, the constant care of a benign Providence which has watched over these two States during this long period, which almost spans their entire history, should be devoutly recognized, the commission has invited the Rev. Dr. Andrew P. Peabody, once of New Hampshire and now of Massachusetts, to open these exercises with prayer.

Thereupon, he introduced the Rev. Dr. Peabody, of Cambridge, Mass., who offered a solemn prayer appropriate to the occasion.

Upon its conclusion, the president stated that the commissioners had requested Mr. Erastus P. Jewell, who had been long and intimately conversant with the history of this locality, to prepare and deliver, on this occasion, an historical address relative to this particular section of New Hampshire and to its southern boundary line, which he kindly consented to do. He thereupon presented to the audience Mr. Jewell, of Laconia, who delivered the following address :

#### ADDRESS OF MR. JEWELL.

The substantial structure which the State of New Hampshire has erected for the preservation of the Endicott Rock with its ancient inscription, is designed to perpetuate the record of an important event in colonial history.

Two hundred and forty years ago this beautiful water of the highlands was probably discovered by civilized man. There is no reasonable doubt that the explorers stood upon this historic stone, August 1, 1652, and upon that day cut the inscription upon its granite face.

There is something sacred about this remarkable record which marks a period only thirty-two years from the first settlement of Plymouth. The stone is the oldest public monument in New England. Its age alone would command respect.

Several of the principal nobility of England obtained from King





James all the land in America between the degrees of forty and forty-eight north latitude, by the name of New England.

The grantees of this unknown territory were known as the council of New England.

John Mason obtained from this corporation several grants, bearing date March 9, 1621; August 10, 1622; November 7, 1629; and April 22, 1635. He was instated in fee in a vast tract of land known as New Hampshire.

November 27, 1629, Mason and Ferdinando Gorges procured a grant of territory by the name of Laconia.

Mason transported settlers, built houses, forts, and magazines, furnished arms, including artillery, and all necessary materials for establishing a plantation, at very great expense.

In 1628, the governor and company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England secured from the council of New England a grant of certain lands, therein described. A royal charter was obtained March 4, 1629.

The boundaries and descriptions in all these grants were imperfect and strangely confused. The interior had never been explored, and difficulties of the most perplexing nature arose as soon as settlements were undertaken upon the territory which seemed to be included in both the grants to Mason and to the Bay company.

A section of the Massachusetts charter referring to the northern boundary was as follows: "and also all and singular lands and hereditaments whatsoever which lie and be within the space of three English miles to the northward of said river called Monomack alias Merry-mack, or to the northward of any and every part thereof."

Mason's New Hampshire grant of November 7, 1629, embraced all that part of the main land in New England lying upon the sea coast, beginning from the middle part of Merrimack river and from thence northward along the sea coast to Piscataqua river, and "so forwards up within the said river and to the furthest head thereof, and from thence northwestward until threescore miles be finished from the first entrance of Piscataqua river; also from Merrimack through the said river and to the furthest head thereof and so forwards up into the lands westward until threescore miles be finished," etc.

In 1652, the Massachusetts colony resolved upon an exploring expedition to determine and to fix the northern boundaries of their patent.

Prior to this time conflicting views upon the construction of the peculiar description in their charter had been entertained, and now upon a careful perusal of the instrument it was determined that a point



three miles northward of the head of the Merrimack was the northern limit of their territory, and this notable expedition was organized to go up the river to find the head thereof and to establish the bounds.

At this time probably no white man had ever approached the lake nearer than a point three miles northward of the "forks" of the river at Franklin.

The general court of the Massachusetts Bay colony in July, 1638, ordered Goodman Woodman and Mr. John Stretton with an Indian and two others, appointed by the magistrates of Ipswich, "to lay out the line three miles northward of the most northernmost part of Merrimack," "for wch" they were to have "5 s. a day apiece."

May 22, 1639, I find that Woodward "was ordered to have 3 £ for his journey to discover the running up of Merrimack," 10 s. more were added by order of the governor and deputies, "and they which went with them, Thos. Houlet, Sargent Jacobs, Thos. Clark & John Manning to have 50 s. apiece."

This committee placed the northern line at a great pine tree, three miles north of the union of the Winnepesaukee and Pemigewasset rivers, then considered the head of the Merrimack as it has since been established.

This first survey must have occupied nearly two weeks, and doubtless was made in the summer or early autumn of 1638.

The pine tree was marked to indicate the extreme limit of the colonial charter, and was known for many years as "Endicott's Tree."

It is formally alluded to in the claim presented by Massachusetts to the celebrated Salisbury court, August 8, 1737, as "a certain tree commonly known for more than seventy years past by the name of Endicott's Tree, standing three miles northward of the parting of the Merrimack river," etc. No one knows where this tree stood.

Dr. Runnels, in his excellent "History of Sanbornton," says, "it was of no account for a colonial bound after the year 1639. It lived. It died. But no man knoweth of its sepulchre unto this day."

The construction put upon the charter in the spring of 1652, made an authoritative exploration a necessity.

Difficulties and complications had arisen, involving other charters and individual rights. The conflict was serious and the difficulties great.

The men who came up the Merrimack two hundred and forty years ago did not penetrate the wilderness as adventurers.

They were representatives of the colony, and came to determine boundaries and to take possession. The order of the court, May 3, 1652, was as follows: "For the better discovery of the north line of





our Patent, it is ordered by this Court that Capt. Symon Willard and Capt. Edward Johnson be appointed as commissioners, to procure such artists and other assistants as they shall judge meet, to go with them to *find out* the most northerly part of Merrimack river, and that they be supplied with all manner of necessaries by the Treasurer fit for this journey, and that they use their utmost skill and ability to take a *true observation of the latitude* of that place, and that they do it with all convenient speed and make return thereof to the next session of this Court."

The great purpose was to reach the most northerly part of the river. The *head* of the Merrimack was the point in doubt.

The expedition of 1638 seemingly had not reached the head of the river. They had only reached the forks of a river.

For the new enterprise *very able men were chosen*.

Willard was a captain of militia and frequently a member of the general court, from Concord. He afterward commanded a portion of Massachusetts's forces in King Philip's war. He was born in Kent, England. He came to Massachusetts in 1634. He died at Charlestown, April 24, 1676.

Johnson came to New England in 1630. He was a representative from Woburn for twenty-seven years. He was speaker of the house in 1655. He was the author of "Wonder Working Providence of Zion's Savior in New England," which was published in London in 1654. He died, April 23, 1672.

Willard and Johnson were active and leading men in all colonial affairs.

The commissioners procured Jonathan Ince, a scholar who lived at Cambridge, and John Sherman, a prominent citizen and land surveyor of Watertown, as artists or surveyors, to observe and take the latitude of the most northerly part, or the head of Merrimack river.

Sherman was the great-grandfather of the celebrated Roger Sherman, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Eliot, the apostle to the Indians, mentions Ince as "a godly young man who hath a singular faculty to learn and pronounce the Indian tongue." Ince was undoubtedly selected because he could do the scientific work of the expedition and could also communicate with the Indians. Dr. Samuel A. Green, in his pamphlet on the Northern Boundary of Massachusetts, speaks of Ince as the "Confidential clerk of President Dunster." He graduated at Harvard in the class of 1650, and acted in various capacities connected with the college for several years afterward. I have little doubt that the inscription was the work



of Jonathan Ince and that his own initials were the last which received the touch of his hand.

It is doubtful if four other men could have been found in New England so well equipped for the important work before them.

James Prentiss and another white man whose name is not preserved, accompanied the commissioners as laborers.

Willard and Johnson "indented with two Indians well acquainted with Merrimack river and the *great lake* born and bred all their daies thereupon, very intelligent as any in all these parts."

The language of the report is, "we covenanted with them to lead us up the Merrimack river *as far* as the river was Merrimack river."

Few Indians' names survive except the great leaders of the extinct race, but Pontauhun and Ponbakin, the intelligent native guides who were acquainted with the *great lake*, and who led this first expedition to it, have an abiding place in history.

Indians were indispensable in these first journeys into the interior. It will be remembered that one was appointed by the magistrates in 1638, to go with Woodward and Stretton.

Willard and Johnson evidently selected superior guides, "very *intelligent* and *well acquainted* with the river and lake," upon whom they could rely for necessary information.

When they came to the forks of the river and to "Endicott's Tree" with the marks upon it, placed there fourteen years before by the former explorers, a serious question arose as to how far the river was Merrimack and which of the branches, if either, was to be followed.

They report, "when we came short of the lake about 60 miles, then came two rivers into, one from the westward of north and the other from northward of the east. The westerly river to me, as I then thought, was bigger than the other; but taking notice of both these rivers, and knowing we must make use of but one, I called the Indians to inform us which was Merrimack river; their answer was, the river which was next unto us, that came from the Easterly point, which river we followed into the lake."

From the affidavit of Richard Waldern, called out by the general court in 1665 to give evidence of what he knew about the name of Merrimack river (Provincial Papers, vol. i, 290), it appears the Indians understood both branches to be a part of the Merrimack, "not only in that branch which runneth from Winnipicocket but the other branch which runneth more westerly."

Peter Weares also declared under oath, that the natives told him, as





far back as 1638, that the lake called Winnipiseket issues into the river of Merrimack.

Pontauhum and Ponbakin must be regarded as undoubted authority at that time, that the Merrimack river continued to the lake.

The difficulty of navigating the Winnepesaukee at that season of the year is evident, from their estimate of the distance from Franklin to the Weirs. That a sail-boat was used appears from the commissioners' account. They charge for making the boat, 3 £ 01 s. 00 d.

Upon their return they give credit for the "Sayles, pieces of rope and two blocks, the boat and some ruff &c., that were left 02 £ 17 s. 0 d."

Whether or not a sail-boat reached the lake at that time must forever remain a matter of conjecture. The Indians navigated the river from Aqueductan to the sea with very large boats, and had "Carrying places," as they were called, where the boats were taken out and carried past the falls. It is not improbable that the trouble in getting up the river from Franklin was on account of the difficulties incident to the sail-boat.

Upon their arrival at the lake a well shaped boulder was found *exactly at the head of the river*, seemingly inviting the inscription which we have examined to-day, and which is destined to be an object of interest to unborn generations who shall hereafter come from the hot and crowded cities, for rest and comfort, and to enjoy the pure air and unsurpassed scenery of central and northern New Hampshire.

It is fortunate that we know the names of the pioneer tourists to this delightful spot. Fortunate that they left their enduring initials upon the only register open to them.

Here was an Indian village then, and many of the children of the deep woods had never seen a paleface.

It is difficult to state when the Indians finally left their village at Aqueductan, but it is well known that Isaac Bradley and Joseph Whittaker were taken by the Indians at Haverhill, Mass., in the fall of 1695, and were captives at the lake all winter.

They escaped the following spring, and after nine days in the woods arrived safely at Saco.

Aqueductan of 1652 was a large Indian fishing place. Here the natives came from a distance to get fish to dry and smoke for a winter supply of food. Stone weirs were built in the river.

The Penacook word for Weirs was Aqueductan. The great stone fish trap was constructed in the form of a W. The lower points extended quite a distance below the present iron bridge; the walls



extended up the river some ten or fifteen rods and touched the shores. Good sized stones, such as could be picked up in the river and on the shores, were used; at low or ordinary stages of the water the walls were never covered, but at flood times the water flowed over them. They were substantially built.

The lower points were left open a few feet for the water and fish to go through. A short distance below the opening another wall was built, in a half-circle, and into the spaces were placed wickerwork, through which the water could easily flow, but fine enough to secure fish of any considerable size.

Mr. Augustus Doe, a former resident and a very intelligent man, who had seen the weirs himself, and had learned much about them from the earlier settlers, estimated that it would require the labor of two good men two months to build the walls.

Into these traps fish, including shad, which were then very abundant in these waters, were driven and easily captured.

As is well known, the salmon never came up the Winnepesaukee river. The salmon and shad parted company at Franklin.

When the white settlers came, the weirs were in a good state of preservation and were used by them.

Fish wardens were appointed yearly, whose duty it was to go two days each week, I think, to see that the fish were fairly distributed among the people who assembled here. If enough were not found in the traps, boats and rafts were sent up into the lake and the water was beaten with brush and fish were driven in.

This was the method pursued by the Indians for ages before, for these rude walls bore unmistakable evidence of great age.

With the exception of the two days each week when the wardens were present anyone could use them.

Frequently the early settlers would find the basket-like trap well filled with magnificent fish, and all our fathers had to do was to take the helpless captives out, unless a multitude had to be fed, when they resorted to the method just described.

Excavations and improvements in the interest of navigation and manufactures have obliterated all traces of these interesting old monuments of another race.

The explorers of 1652 arrived when they were in use and largely relied upon by the natives for a food supply.

They camped here for a night or two, or shared the rude hospitality of the friendly Indians.





They were at the head of the Merrimack. They saw for the first time the wonderful lake of which they had heard so much.

They cut the name of Governor Endicott and their own initials in deep letters upon the stone tablet and departed, never to return.

Their stay was necessarily short. Nineteen days were consumed in the entire journey. The expenses were about eighty-four pounds.

Under date of October 19, 1652, Sherman and Ince made a report, as follows:

"John Sherman and Jonathan Ince on their oaths say, that at Aqueductan the name of the head of the Merrimack where it issues out of the Lake called Winnapeeseakit, upon the 1st day of August, 1652 we observed, and by observation found, that the latitude of the place was  $43^{\circ}, 40', 12''$ , besides those minutes which are to be allowed for the three miles more North wch. run into the Lake."

No doubt the observations were made at noon of the day upon which the stone was inscribed. The date may have been cut upon its surface. Drill holes which were evidently designed to attract attention and make the monument conspicuous, are still apparent, but no traces of the date remain.

After the departure of the noted discoverers, years rolled away. The red men disappeared. The ancient solitude reigned again for a while upon the uninhabited shores of Winnepesaukee.

A century later, or a little more, and white settlers came and civilization slowly advanced.

The old controversies, involving jurisdiction, titles, and boundaries, had long been settled, and once important reports and documents had been lost or filed away and forgotten.

Another generation was upon the stage. Willard, Johnson, Sherman, and Ince had been sleeping more than a hundred and fifty years, and no man lived who knew aught of the inscribed stone; but the faithful sentinel silently kept the mysterious record unobserved until a laborer in the employ of Stephen C. Lyford, in 1833, noticed "The queer marks," and called Lyford's attention to them.

The name of Governor Endicott was easily read, and the same day the discovery was made known to the late eminent Judge George Y. Sawyer, who was then practicing law at Meredith Bridge.

The next morning, Lyford, Sawyer, Daniel Tucker, and John T. Coffin visited the Weirs and made a most enthusiastic examination.

Mr. Sawyer investigated the whole matter, and, with Col. Philip Carrigain, prepared an article which appears in volume four of the Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society.



In a letter to me Judge Sawyer says, "all enquiries made by Messrs. Lyford, Tucker, and Coffin, as well as by myself, of aged people, failed to elicit any information in regard to the inscription, and we were convinced that there was no knowledge of such sculptured rock, or any tradition of its existence among the people in that section of the country,"

Since its discovery the waters of the lake have been controlled by the dam at Lakeport, so that the surface has been covered a great portion of the time, and it was found that the water and ice were rapidly obliterating the inscription.

In October, 1880, casts were made by two Italian artists of Boston, Senors Luchini and Caproni, one of which is preserved in the rooms of the New Hampshire Historical Society at Concord. One was given to the cabinet of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and a third to the proprietors of the locks and canals on the Merrimack river, whose office is in Lowell. Several others are in existence.

But while the inscription was quite well defined, and to prevent further destruction, the Legislature of New Hampshire, September 7, 1883, and August 25, 1885, made appropriations and the State appointed commissioners to insure its preservation.

The merely ornamental has been sacrificed in the attempt to make the work appropriate, massive, and permanent.

Ages hence, when we, with the most of mankind have been forgotten—when the great republic shall number more than two hundred millions, when the Aqueductan of the Penacooks shall be the abode of a vast multitude, and the shore and the islands of our magnificent lake shall be richly adorned with homes of luxury and splendor—this old historic treasure, shielded with stately care from vandalism, elemental onsets and the ravages of time, shall continue in its abiding simplicity, an object of surpassing interest, an impressive relic of colonial days, and the time worn inscription shall be viewed with becoming reverence, while the tablet which our generation has erected for the instruction of those who come after us, in the distant years, under the then venerable, time battered, and mutilated shrine which stubbornly assays its protection, shall mutely tell its concise story with monumental fidelity to those who shall assemble here.

As we look back two hundred and forty years, it seems a long time, but how insignificant when compared with the measureless years of solitude through which this gray old sentinel silently guarded the outlet of the lake, and the more distant years when Winnepesaukee turned its waters into the sea by another channel, and there was no "head of





the Merrimack" here—or with the glacial wanderings of this voiceless stone from its cradle bed in the infinite past—when there was no beautiful water of the highlands, and the smile of the Great Spirit had not rested among the hills.

Wonderful indeed has been the unrecorded history of this now exalted wanderer; more wonderful yet are the vicissitudes which await it.

It beheld nature's tumultuous uproar and saw the awful conditions prior to the appearance of man.

Races have vanished and been buried in eternal oblivion before this primeval stone. So shall our race perish and be forgotten in the infinite years, and as the lifeless planet shall swing into the wild and stormy hereafter, relentless time, scorning our efforts to perpetuate the work of human hands, with Titanic blows shall beat the Endicott Rock into impalpable dust.

The address of Mr. Jewell was followed by music by Rublee's band, at the close of which, Mr. John Kimball, chairman of the commission, gave a detailed account of its work, at the close of which, in behalf of the commission, he proceeded to transfer to Governor Tuttle, as chief magistrate of New Hampshire, the completed structure now covering the Endicott Rock.

#### REMARKS OF MR. KIMBALL.

From 1652 to 1833, a period of one hundred and eighty-one years, the people of New Hampshire had no knowledge of the Endicott Rock. It is to be presumed that the inscription cut in the rough boulder in 1652 was plain and legible. The frost of winter and the heat of summer, assisted by the ice in passing over the rock from the lake to the river, had disintegrated the surface so that the inscription was slowly disappearing.

Since the discovery in 1833, the interest in this rock has been increasing. A large number of tourists have annually visited it. A general impression prevailed that something should be done to preserve it. September 7, 1883, a half of a century after its discovery, the Legislature of New Hampshire passed a joint resolution appropriating \$400 for the "preservation and protection of the Endicott Rock at the Weirs, in the town of Laconia." Nothing was done until October

the first of the great principles of the American Revolution, the right of the people to alter or to abolish their government, and to institute a new one, was the first of the great principles of the American Revolution. The second principle was the right of the people to be governed by laws made by themselves, and the third principle was the right of the people to be governed by laws made by their representatives.

The first of these principles was the right of the people to alter or to abolish their government, and to institute a new one. This principle was the first of the great principles of the American Revolution. The second principle was the right of the people to be governed by laws made by themselves, and the third principle was the right of the people to be governed by laws made by their representatives.

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### THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

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25, 1884, when the governor and council appointed Erastus P. Jewell, of Laconia; John Kimball, of Concord; and Waldo E. Buck, of Lakeport, commissioners to carry into effect the act of the Legislature. Lewis D. Badger, of Lakeport, was employed to raise the stone from its bed in the sand to a point above high water mark, and place under it a suitable foundation for the stone and structure which is now built thereon. On account of a seam running diagonally through the stone, it was found necessary to strengthen it by the use of iron rods running through and around it. The rock was about twelve feet long, six feet wide, and four feet thick. The corners were worn off so that the ends were circular in form. It was found necessary to reduce the length to eight feet. The top of the rock is four feet above the pebbly beach which surrounds it.

The amount appropriated being insufficient to provide for the suitable protection and preservation of the rock, on August 25, 1885, the Legislature appropriated a further sum of \$720. For the next six years the water in the lake was unusually high, until the dry season of 1891, when the water receded so that the work so long delayed, could be completed. During this time, Mr. Buck, one of the commissioners, had removed from the State. On December 22, 1891, the governor and council appointed Joseph B. Walker, of Concord, to fill the vacancy.

Edward Dow, an architect, of Concord, had made a design of the building to be placed around and over the rock. This design has been modified by Giles Wheeler, of Concord, and the commissioners, and adopted by them. It consists of a building of Concord granite, fifteen feet long, fourteen feet wide at the base, and thirteen feet high. The bottom course of stone resting on the foundation is one foot, three inches thick. The second course is twelve inches thick, receding toward the centre twelve inches, and forming a step twelve inches wide around the building. The third course is one foot, three inches thick, receding from the second course twelve inches, and forming a second step twelve inches wide. On this course there is a three inch splay. The three courses of stone with the Endicott Rock form a solid mass of stone and cement four feet high. On this masonry is erected a building of heavy block stone ten feet, six inches long, eight feet, six inches wide on the outside; and seven feet high on the inside, over the rock.

This is surmounted by a capstone (in two parts) forming a solid stone roof twelve feet long, and ten feet wide. On the top of this stone roof is a block of granite four feet, six inches long, by two feet.





six inches wide, and ten inches thick, which is ready to receive a bronze statue of Governor John Endicott, or some other personage who performed an important part in our colonial history. On the north, west, and south sides of this building there are three openings six feet high by three and one half feet wide. In each of these openings there is inserted a brass grill to protect the rock and its inscription. The surface of the rock can be seen and the letters of the original inscription, having been covered with gold leaf, can easily be read from either of the openings. On the east side of the building there is a polished granite panel facing the front or west opening, six feet high by four feet wide. Upon this panel there is cut the following inscription:

### ENDICOTT ROCK.

The name of  
JOHN ENDICVT Gov.  
and the initials of  
Edward Johnson and Simon Willard, commissioners  
of the Massachusetts Bay Colony,  
John Sherman and Jonathan Ince, surveyors, were inscribed upon  
this rock  
August 1, 1652,  
to mark the head of Merrimack River.

A line three miles northward of this rock was then claimed by that colony as the northern limit of their patent.

E I	S W
W P	JOHN
	ENDICVT
	GOV
I S	I I

The structure which covers this historic stone, long known as Endicott Rock, was erected for its protection, in 1892, by the State of New Hampshire, in accordance with Joint Resolutions of its Legislature, approved September 7, 1883, and August 25, 1885.

JOHN KIMBALL,  
ERASTUS P. JEWELL,  
JOSEPH B. WALKER,  
*Commissioners.*



To the following named contractors who have executed the several parts of the work, due credit should be given: Foundation, Lewis D. Badger, Lakeport; cut stone work, Granite Railway Company, Joseph H. Pearce, superintendent, Concord; moving stone from cars to the rock, W. J. Morrison, Laconia; laying the stone, F. E. House, Manchester; building the bridge, Henry C. Batchelder, Laconia; brass grill, T. F. McGann, Boston; gilding the inscription, Ezra A. Page, Laconia; cutting the inscription in panel, S. Andrew Smith, Concord; superintendent of the work, Giles Wheeler, Concord. I will not burden you with an account of the expense in detail, only to say that the whole cost is \$2,426.82.

Your excellency the governor, and the honorable council: And now it only remains for the commissioners to deliver this building into your hands, who are for the time being its lawful custodians. Permit me to say in behalf of the commissioners that we are grateful for the confidence reposed in us by you and your predecessors; and we close our labors hoping that this structure will be reasonably satisfactory to the people of New Hampshire, and will preserve and protect the Endicott Rock as required by the acts of its Legislature, for two hundred and forty years, at least.

In accepting the structure thus tendered, his excellency replied as follows:

#### ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR TUTTLE.

##### *Mr. President and Fellow Citizens:*

In behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I accept, from the honorable commissioners who have acted in their name and behalf, the completed and finished structure, designed to preserve an historic relic of great interest to our people and to give to it that celebrity to which it is entitled. It gives me great pleasure to say to the commissioners, entrusted with this work, that it has been well done, and I gladly tender to them, not only my own thanks, but also those of the honorable council, for the wisdom and fidelity with which they have applied the appropriations, made by the Legislature, to the object sought to be accomplished.

The Endicott Rock is a New Hampshire landmark, only in a physical sense, as it rests upon New Hampshire soil and is bathed by her waters. In its political significance and historical association its record





belongs to our sister commonwealth of Massachusetts, who claimed to exercise jurisdiction over this gateway to our marvelous mountain regions, nearly two and a half centuries ago. She made her record here, three miles south of her supposed northern boundary, more than a quarter of a century before the formation of the first council for the government of any part of our present territory under the name of New Hampshire, and one hundred and twenty-four years before the adoption of our first and temporary constitution, which was also the first constitution adopted by any State that became a member of the American Union.

An event of such significance as the attempt of the colony of Massachusetts to establish her boundary three miles north of the source of the Merrimack, according to the terms of her grant, in what is now the heart of our State, can never fail to be of deep and absorbing interest to every student of our early history; and the judgment of all will be that our State has acted wisely and well in preserving, for the inspection of the generations who will succeed us, an object whose historic interest can never diminish so long as these beautiful shores and charming waters shall gladden the eye of man. Those who have preceded me have spoken so eloquently and given us so clearly the historic events pertinent to this occasion, that I need not invade that field so fruitful in thought and suggestion.

In conclusion, I congratulate the people of our State that their Legislature had the wisdom and generosity to make provision for the preservation of this ancient historic landmark; and I congratulate all who have an interest in whatever relates to the experiences of the founders of this now mighty empire of the New World, upon the most happy and successful accomplishment of this patriotic purpose.

Music was again given by the band, after which, in the absence of His Excellency Governor Russell and of the Hon. William C. Endicott, of Massachusetts, who, it had been expected would be present, the Rev. Dr. Peabody was invited to respond for the grand old commonwealth by whose officers and in whose behalf the Endicott Rock was inscribed and made historic.

Thereupon, Dr. Peabody made an able and eloquent impromptu address, in the course of which he alluded to his former residence in New Hampshire and paid a high tribute to its people.





At the close of Dr. Peabody's address, the president reminded the audience that the exercises of such an occasion would be entirely unsatisfactory unless ratified by the New Hampshire Historical Society, which had done what it could to preserve the early history of the State and that it would hardly be safe to terminate them without hearing from that venerable body, whose president is with us; a Scotch Irishman, in part, by blood, but a Puritan at heart; by both blood and heart, a worthy representative of whatever is best among us. Hon. John J. Bell, of Exeter, was then invited to address the assembly in behalf of the New Hampshire Historical Society, and responded in an interesting speech detailing with care important events in the early history of New Hampshire.

At the close of Mr. Bell's address, the president remarked that, while he had been speaking, a trial had been made of the stone weirs, so graphically described by Mr. Jewell, as extending from shore to shore of the river, in the form of a capital W, whose points extending down stream opened into two small, circular inclosures for the capture of the fish driven into the same from above by loud outcries and splashings of the water; and that, an examination of these, just made, had revealed the gratifying fact that in one of them had been captured a live senator. Thereupon, Senator William E. Chandler, whose name was not upon the programme, was invited to make the closing address, and was presented to the assembly.

#### ADDRESS OF HON. WILLIAM E. CHANDLER.

*Mr. Chairman and Ladies and Gentlemen:*

If the commissioners have caught me as a fish in the weirs, I must be brief or you will not let me escape alive. It is hardly fair to ask one to speak at this late hour who had expected to listen, or at most to extend a cordial greeting to Governor Russell and Ex-Secretary Endi-



cott, who were to represent Massachusetts on this occasion. Perhaps, on reflection, they felt ashamed to come here and defend the movement which resulted in marking the Endicott Rock. The president of the New Hampshire Historical Society, the Hon. John J. Bell, has informed us that the desire of Massachusetts to extend her jurisdiction over the New Hampshire towns and the Maine settlements, arose only from her policy of spreading the principles of civil and religious liberty. I think there was another motive. I realize that Massachusetts is represented here by our distinguished and venerable friend, the Rev. Dr. Andrew P. Peabody, and I beg to assure him that although I may bear down on Massachusetts to begin with, I will make it all right before I finish. That excursion of Maj. Simon Willard and Capt. Edward Johnson, commissioners, and John Sherman and Jonathan Ince, surveyors, to Aqueductan was one of the most preposterous land-grabbing expeditions of which the world has a record. It seems that on a previous excursion, in 1638, a tree had been marked as the northern boundary of Massachusetts, near the junction of the Pemigewasset and Winnepesaukee rivers. When the agents, in 1652, reached this junction, they were told by an Indian that the stream to follow up as the Merrimack was the Winnepesaukee, and so they took that route, and located their boundary as three miles out into the lake, north of the marked rock where we now are. I think New Hampshire ought to be everlastingly grateful to that Indian and to erect to him a monument. If it had not been for him the Massachusetts party might have followed the Pemigewasset to its extreme source and have drawn an east and west line three miles further north, and then Massachusetts would have claimed all of the White Mountains, and might have held so noble a prize to this day.

Consider further this Endicott rock-marking excursion. The chartered northern boundary of Massachusetts was an east and west line three miles north of the most northerly part of the Merrimack river. Then it was supposed that the Merrimack ran from west to east through its whole course, and Massachusetts established her towns all along the northerly side—Salisbury, Almsbury, Haverhill, Methuen, and Dracut. After it became known that at Dracut the course of the river was south, the colony began to push their claims to the north; and so these excursionists of 1652 came to the Endicott Rock and discovered that the place was forty-three degrees, forty minutes, and twelve seconds of north latitude; and three miles being added, the line fell within the lake at forty-three degrees, forty-three minutes, and twelve seconds. Did they then follow out the line to the eastward to the ocean? Not at

1917. The American Medical Association has been organized since 1847, and has since that time been the largest and most influential organization of the medical profession in the United States. It has been the leading body in the promotion of the interests of the medical profession, and has been the leading body in the promotion of the interests of the medical profession in the United States.

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all. It was a wilderness through which they did not dare to travel a single mile. They retreated south by the route they had come, with their sail-boat and their Indian and went back to old Boston and made their report. The general court then hired, no longer woodsmen, but seamen, "two experienced shipmasters," Jonas Clarke and Samuel Andrews, and sent them off across the sea to the coast of Maine, where they found forty-three degrees, forty-three minutes, and twelve seconds of latitude in Casco bay, on Clapboard island. Thereupon Massachusetts claimed that her northern boundary was a line drawn east and west through Casco bay and Lake Winnepesaukee, from the Atlantic to the South Sea, which my friend, President John J. Bell, has just told me meant the Pacific ocean; over not one mile of which northern boundary had a single Massachusetts colonist, or agent of the general court, ever traveled or ever dared to travel. This was the claim of right on the part of Massachusetts to rule New Hampshire—at which we can well laugh to-day!

But after all, on fuller view, Massachusetts deserves all the eulogy which President Bell has given her. If any in the New Hampshire towns disliked her jurisdiction, they were able soon to witness her humiliation. The old Bay colony did stand for civil and religious liberty, and resisted the oppressions of Charles the Second, and the arbitrary governors he sent over, and the renegades among their own number whom those governors seduced. If the men of Massachusetts had been cringing and servile, they might have held New Hampshire fast in their control. But they resisted the merry monarch and his minions, and before many years had passed after the Endicott Rock excursion, it was decided by the English judges that New Hampshire was not within the chartered limits of Massachusetts: and in 1684, the persecution of that colony resulted in the destruction of its charter upon *quo warranto* proceedings in the English courts. But this humiliation was not long to be endured. The New Hampshire towns sympathized with Massachusetts; the revolution of 1688 was at hand; and when at last came the downfall of the Stuart dynasty in the mother country, the Puritan blood was up, and the Bay colonists arose against Sir Edmund Andros, and shut him up a prisoner in Fort Hill castle, and also against the faithless chief justice, Jo. Dudley, and the pernicious Edward Randolph, and laid them by the heels in the common jail at Boston!

This is my amende to Massachusetts. From that time down to this generation, in every battle for high principles, the men of Massachusetts and the men of New Hampshire have fought shoulder to shoulder,



beginning in the Revolution at Bunker Hill, and ending at Yorktown; and in the late war of the rebellion, brethren of a common ancestry, they fought side by side for that liberty and union which is their blood-bought heritage and their unending glory. New Hampshire can have but one issue with Massachusetts over the Endicott Rock. It shall remain where it is, with its Massachusetts inscriptions. If agents of the commonwealth come to take it away, they must come with arms in their hands. The New Hampshire boys will fight to keep it as a precious portion of her soil. But this, and this alone, may Massachusetts do. Upon the edifice which the State of New Hampshire has erected, there is room for a noble statue. Let us all agree and hope that the sons of the old Bay colony and State may there appropriately place a likeness of their grand old Puritan chieftain, the father of Massachusetts, none other than the worshipful John Endicott, governor.

As remarked by Mr. Kimball in his foregoing address, the cost of the stone structure caused to be erected by the commissioners appointed for the protection of the oldest existing public monument within our limits, has exceeded the appropriations made by the Legislature in the sum of thirteen hundred and six dollars and eighty-two cents (\$1,306.82). This sum the commissioners have advanced in the full confidence of being reimbursed by the State, as it was found during its progress that the work could not be satisfactorily executed for the amount appropriated.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN KIMBALL,  
ERASTUS P. JEWELL,  
JOSEPH B. WALKER,

*Commissioners for the Preservation and  
Protection of the Endicott Rock.*

CONCORD, N. H., October 26, 1892.

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